

# Is dentistry becoming a carnival of rust?



Dentistry is a noble profession and everyone experiences the severity of dental pain at some point in their lives. At that particular time, they bless the dentists and consider them to be “god of the moment.”

India is emerging as a new destination for dental health care. With the increasing awareness and importance of oral health, dental tourism is growing at a rapid pace. India is becoming adroit in dental health care. Also the cost of dental treatment in India is economical when compared to other countries, which attracts people from abroad.

We are moving toward a perfect trend but there are several imperfections that need to be voiced out and addressed. The first one is mal-distribution of dental surgeons. Most of the dental surgeons with postgraduate degrees tend to setup their practices in metropolitan cities or district headquarters, based on the notion that the paying capacity is more in these places and may even attract patients from abroad here. As a result, there are more dental surgeons in the metropolitan cities or district headquarters and lack of adequate number of dental practitioners in the suburb and rural areas, creating an imbalance in spite of having enough dental institutions and registered dental practitioners. This mushrooming of dental practices in major cities also leads to intense marketing and unhealthy competition.

Also, the fresh postgraduates try to get appointed as “senior lecturers” in teaching institutions. But the fact is that in

most of the institutions this post is already saturated and they become jobless. Instead they can take up research as their career, since dental research in India is only at the postgraduate dissertation level and most of them never make an attempt to extend their research further, and are unaware of the funds and sponsorships available from governmental and private bodies.

The policy makers should insist that dental institutions have a research and development department as it is a must for the growth of the dental-care system in general and for the nonclinical postgraduates in particular. It will also utilize the crop of fresh talent with sound knowledge and good skill, passing out from the dental institutions every year.

At the same time, the union government or the state governments can encourage the dental surgeons to setup their practices in the rural areas by providing tax relief, loans with subsidies, etc., to cater the rural population, which will also ease the congestion and the unhealthy competition of dental practitioners in metropolitan cities.


A forum should be created between dentists and the government directly so that transparency is maintained, and freedom of speech and anonymity is assured. So cheers to all the dentists for being who we are, and let us all strive to improve our profession and to remove the hurdles currently present.

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